3509. [*Transferred to the 31st August*, 1988]

Forest fires

3510. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the loss of forest wealth and lives due to forest fires in last three years;

(b) what are the methods used for preventing and/or extinguishing forest fires in India;

(c) what are the methods employed by other environment conscious countries for prevention and extinguishing of forest fires; and

(d) whether Government propose to adopt modern methods for forest fire fighting; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Information regarding the loss of forest wealth and lives due to Forest fires in the last three years is being collected and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

(b) Methods used for preventing and/or extinguishing forest fires in India include clearance and maintenance of fire lines, controlled burning along roads and paths, seeking cooperation of the people through publicity, and extinguishing forest fires with the help of counter fires and implements including hand tools.

(c) Methods employed by othere environment conscious countries for the prevention and extinguishing of forest fires include use of hand tools, mechanised equipment water Handling equipment and air operations.

(d) Yes Sir. A Central Sector pilot project has been launched with UNDP assistance in the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh to devise, test and demonstrate principles and techniques of prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires. Experience gained from the project will be made available to all States & Union Territories for guidance and use.

Summary assessment scheme

3511. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that summary assessment scheme has failed in achieving its objective;

(b) if so, what remedial steps are being taken to improve the situation;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative; whether there has been an increase in tax mobilisation through this scheme; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase in tax collections from year to year. The figures of total tax collected during financial years 1983-84 to 1987-88 are as under:—

Financial year	Tax collections (in crores of rupees)
1983-84	4191.87
1984-85	4483.66
1985-86	5374.30
1986-87	6038.01
1987-88	6644.00 (provisional figures

Redressal of the hardship of handloom weavers

3512. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of yarn for handloom weavers has gone up by 28 per cent during the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the price of textiles has gone up by not more than 6 per cent during this period; and

(c) if so, what specified steps Government propose to take to redress the hardship of handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Even though the price of yarn has increased during the past three years, there has been no shortage of yarn. Production of cloth in the handloom sector has also not fallen despite increase in yarn price as is evident from the following figures:

Year	production in Million Metres	percentage increase yearly production
1985-86 . . .	3692	5.1
1986-87 . . .	3884	5.2
1987-88 . . .	3948	1.6

Government have taken the following steps to redress the hardship of handloom weavers caused by increase in yarn prices:

(i) Export of staple cotton has been suspended.

(ii) It has also been decided to permit import of cotton against export of cotton yarn/cotton fabric and made-up under the Advance Licence Scheme.

(iii) Export of hank yarn upto 60s counts has been suspended.

(iv) It has been decided to import one lakh bale to cotton, duty free, for production of hank yarn for supply to the handloom sector. The price advantage accruing out of the duty free import of cotton will be passed on to the handloom sector.

(v) The rate of subsidy on Janata Cloth has been increased from Rs. 2/- per square metre to Rs. 2.75 per square metre with effect from 1-3-1988.

Failure of the Scheme for self-employment to Educated Unemployed

3513. DR. RATANAKAR PANDEY:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the scheme to provide self-employment to the educated unemployed youth by way of sanctioning bank loans has failed; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as against the projected coverage of 11.25 lakhs cases under the Self-employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) during 1983-84 to 1987-88, loans have been sanctioned in 10.10 lakhs cases amounting to Rs. 1,938.90 crores. The evaluation studies carried out by RBI and public sector banks with the assistance of reputed institutes has also revealed that majority of beneficiaries under the Scheme were earlier unemployed have set up their own ventures. The Scheme has, therefore, by and large been able to achieve its objectives.

External Debt Position of India

3514. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank 88 report shows external debt position of India and other developing countries; if so, what is the comparative position of India with respect to other developing countries in this respect; and